

COVENTRY

Tiogue School's principal excited about new faces

Domenic Giusti is in his first year as leader of Tiogue Elementary

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COVENTRY — Newly appointed Tiogue Elementary School Principal Domenic Giusti has only been on the job for two weeks but says he is already feeling right at home in Coventry.

The district is double the size of his former employer, East Greenwich Public Schools, and he is now overseeing Tiogue's 430 students in preschool through fifth grade. He is certainly up for the challenge, but must first learn and remember hundreds of new names.

"That's 430 new faces," Giusti said on Friday morning, only seven days into his new position. "My goal is to see everybody at least once a day, to get into every classroom."

As the former principal of James H. Eldredge Elementary School in East Greenwich for

11 years, he is well seasoned in the field of education and understands the ins and outs of running a school. In the short time since the school year began, he has been working on organizing the pick-up and drop-off routines to be more safe for both students and families.

"This is the year for me to really get a feel for how everything works here," said Giusti. "My biggest goal is to learn about the faculty and staff and get to know them as people. They say in real estate the phrase 'location, location location,' but in education it's 'communication, communication, communication.'"

Giusti said he encourages students who see him throughout the day to get to know him, ask him questions and, most importantly, to keep the lines of communication open.

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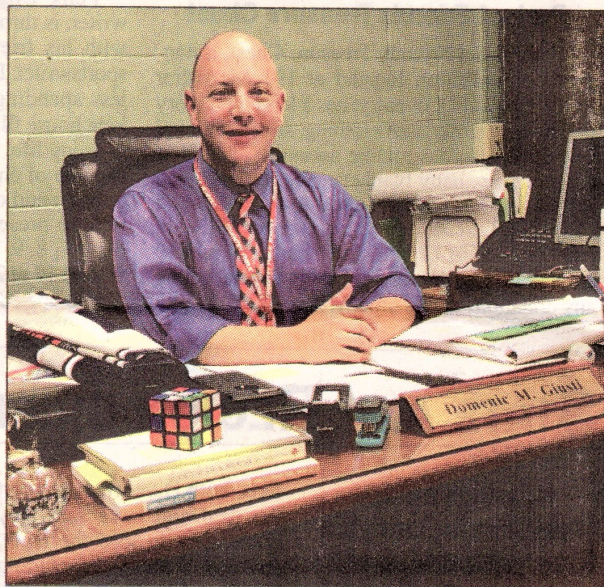


Photo by Kendra Lolio
New Tiogue Elementary School Principal Domenic Giusti.

Tiogogue

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"I always tell students, if I'm walking around, stop me and let me know how you're doing or what's going on," he explained. "I want to hear about the positive things, too. I don't want my office to be an intimidating place for them."

He said was impressed with

the school's staff right off the bat and felt welcomed into the community immediately.

"There was no apprehension from day one," he said. "Everybody just seems so positive. There is an amazing group of teachers here, from the way they talk to the kids on their level to how precise they are. It's very impressive. It's like one big family and very unique."

He praised the school's custodial staff, noting that he was impressed with the condition of the building as soon as he walked through the door.

"Immediately you could tell they worked all summer to get this place in shape," Giusti said. "They have done a great job at this school."

He has also enjoyed working with the Tiogogue PTA, whose members have been

hard at work planning various events for the school.

"They have been unbelievable," he said. "They are very involved and it's nice to see that level of investment in the community."

Giusti is a resident of Hopkinton and grew up in Providence, graduating from Classical High School. He has three children in the Chariho School District. He taught in

East Greenwich for 11 years and served as principal for another 11 before coming to Coventry.

He is looking forward to watching students progress over the time they spend at Tiogogue from preschool to fifth grade and hopes to "strike a balance with teachers, students and families."

"If they're nervous or anxious they aren't going to

learn," he said. "I feel very strongly about keeping the balance."

Giusti was appointed following the resignation of former longtime Principal Louise Seitsinger, who recently left the district to take a position as the North Providence Schools Assistant Superintendent.

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